



GENERAL INFORMATION

This information sheet has been prepared to assist people with A-5 Area-specific Archery Hunt tags or X-3A general deer zone tags. Zone X-3A is located in portions of Lassen and Modoc counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the regulations contained in the 2003 Hunting Regulations for Mammals and Furbearers. Remember you must obtain written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

PUBLIC LAND

Zone X-3A contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS); Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-5811 and the Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-2151 and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381 and 708 West Twelfth Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-4666. A reminder: State Game Refuge 1-S, which surrounds Silva Flat Reservoir, is not open to deer hunting.

ACCESS

Although there is a lot of private land in Zone X-3A, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone X-3A are State Highway 139 (central X-3A), State Highway 299 (northern X-3A), State Highway 395 (eastern X-3A). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

MAPS

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Modoc and Lassen National Forest maps. BLM surface management maps may also be useful. BLM surface management maps for Zone X-3A include the Alturas, Burney, Eagle Lake, McArthur, and Tule Lake maps. You can purchase all of these maps or limit your purchase to only those areas you plan to hunt. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features that are not displayed on USFS maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores, by contacting the USGS directly in Menlo Park at (650) 853-8300 or online at usgs.gov. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707) 562-8794, or purchase them online at www.fs.fed.us/recreation/nationalforeststore/. BLM maps are also available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400.

TRAVEL TIPS

Zone X-3A covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-3A. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

WEATHER

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone X-3A. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. Please, DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources that are important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish and Game violation. YOU can pack water--birds and animals can't!

WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

As with most forested environments, you may not see many deer from the roads in this area and the successful hunter generally has to do some hiking to locate deer. Binoculars can be very helpful for seeing deer at any distance.

The deer in Zone X-3A are mule deer. Deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in early May and will remain until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

Generally, the best hunting areas are located in Happy Camp lookout area, Gehrig, Knox Mountain, Fox Mountain, and Bullard Ridge. Scouting other areas can help you locate an out-of-the-way site that may have less hunter pressure and fit your style of hunting.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-3A. Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush, and in burns that have resprouted with brush. Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting and locating well-used deer trails. In general, areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock are more productive.